

Message Text

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61

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 NEA-09 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 NSC-05

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04

SIL-01 AGR-05 L-02 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /092 W

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R 260811Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5354

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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PASS: AGRICULTURE FOR MEEKER AND NOVOTNY

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EGEN, AS

SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN WHEAT COMMITMENT TO IRAN

REF: CANBERRA 1493

1. AUSTRALIAN AGRICULTURE MINISTER WRIEDT UPON RETURN FROM MIDDLE EAST TRADE MISSION INDICATED DURING PRESS INTERVIEW THAT HE HAD OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK BRIEFLY BY TELEPHONE TO AUSTRALIAN WHEAT BOARD CHAIRMAN CASS, WHO WAS ALSO IN MIDDLE EAST WITH AWB DELEGATION. MINISTER WRIEDT CLEARLY STATED CASS TOLD HIM THAT A THREE-YEAR WHEAT SUPPLY AGREEMENT HAD BEEN NEGOTIATED WITH IRAN, BUT FAILED TO GO INTO FURTHER DETAIL.

2. BOTH AUSTRALIAN WHEAT BOARD AND AUSTRALIAN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO CONFIRM NEGOTIATION OF AGREEMENT. HOWEVER, ALTHOUGH AWB STRONGLY DENIED THAT ANY AGREEMENT HAD BEEN ENTERED INTO, SPOKESMAN ADMITTED THAT THE AWB DELEGATION AND GOI AGREED ON A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING, WHICH PROVIDES FOR REGULAR CONSULTATION EACH YEAR ON QUANTITIES

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AUSTRALIA COULD SUPPLY. AWB APPEARED PURPOSELY VAGUE ON THE MATTER

AND STRESSED THAT EVEN IF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
INCLUDED QUANTITATIVE PROVISIONS THIS WOULD BE SUBJECT TO
BOARD APPROVAL. SPOKESMAN INDICATED HE DOUBTED ANY QUANTITATIVE
COMMITMENT WAS MADE.
HARROP

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WHEAT, TRADE AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CANBER01880
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750106-0079
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750315/aaaaamyl.tel
Line Count: 66
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 CANBERRA 1493
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <12 NOV 2003 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AUSTRALIAN WHEAT COMMITMENT TO IRAN
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EGEN, AS, IR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006